United Nations A/68/137

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 July 2013
English
Original: Arabic/English/Spanish

Sixty-eighth session
Items 99 (k), (r) and (aa) of the preliminary list*
General and complete disarmament

Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*

Reducing nuclear danger

Nuclear disarmament

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/68/50.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to requests contained in General Assembly resolutions 67/33, 67/45 and 67/60.

2. In paragraph 3 of its resolution 67/33, the General Assembly requested all States to inform the Secretary-General of the efforts and measures they had taken on the implementation of the resolution and nuclear disarmament, and requested the Secretary-General to apprise the Assembly of that information at its sixty-eighth session.

3. In paragraph 5 of its resolution 67/45, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to intensify efforts and support initiatives that would contribute towards the full implementation of the seven recommendations identified in the report of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters that would significantly reduce the risk of nuclear war (A/56/400, para. 3), and also to continue to encourage Member States to consider the convening of an international conference, as proposed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration (resolution 55/2), to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session.

4. In paragraph 23 of its resolution 67/60, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of that resolution.

II. Observations

5. Since the last report (A/67/133 and Corr. 1 and Add.1), States have undertaken efforts to facilitate the implementation of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agreements, as follows:

(a) On 26 September 2012, in New York, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative held its fifth ministerial meeting, at which members, inter alia, recalled the Initiative's engagement with the nuclear-weapon States to facilitate the implementation of their nuclear disarmament commitments, including the development of a standard form for reporting information on their nuclear-weapon programmes;

(b) On 27 September 2012, in New York, foreign ministers and other high-level representatives met and issued a joint call for the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. The meeting was co-hosted by the foreign ministers of Australia, Canada, Finland, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands and Sweden and adopted a joint statement calling upon all States that had not done so to sign and ratify the Treaty, in particular the remaining eight annex II States, whose ratification is necessary for the Treaty to enter into force;

(c) The Treaty Between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Strategic Offensive Reductions was set to expire on 31 December 2012, but had been superseded by the 2011 New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START). The fourth and fifth sessions of the bilateral consultative commission for the New START were held in September 2012 and February 2013, respectively. During those sessions, the United States and the Russian Federation continued to discuss practical issues related to the implementation of the Treaty;

(d) The 2013 session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission, the second of its three-year cycle, was held from 1 to 19 April 2013 in New York, chaired by Ambassador Christopher Grima of Malta. Following discussions in the Working Group on agenda item 4 ("Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons") of the non-papers circulated by the Chair, the Chair decided to circulate, under his own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegation and its right to put forward further proposals at the next substantive session of the Commission, two working papers. One of those papers addressed recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and the other addressed general guiding elements for achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In the report of the Disarmament Commission for 2013, it was noted that those working papers did not represent negotiated positions or command consensus and should not set a precedent;

(e) On 9 April 2013 in The Hague, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative held its sixth ministerial meeting. In a joint ministerial statement, the members of the Initiative, inter alia, stressed the need for systematic and continued reduction of all nuclear weapons, including non-strategic nuclear weapons, by all nuclear-weapon States, in a pragmatic and step-by-step approach aimed at their total elimination. The statement also highlighted the Initiative's continuing focus on transparency as a vital confidence-building measure on disarmament and on the importance of reducing the role and significance of nuclear weapons in military and nuclear doctrines;

(f) The fourth conference of the nuclear-weapon States was held from 18 to 19 April 2013 in Geneva, under the chairmanship of the Russian Federation. The meeting aimed to build upon the 2009 London, 2011 Paris and 2012 Washington, D.C., conferences. The nuclear-weapon States reaffirmed their commitment to the shared goal of nuclear disarmament and to general and complete disarmament, as provided for in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and emphasized the importance of working together in implementing the actions agreed to at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

(g) From 22 April to 3 May 2013 in Geneva, States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty held the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference, with Ambassador Cornel Feruta of Romania serving as Chair. In accordance with its agenda adopted at its first session in Vienna in 2012, the Committee continued its substantive deliberations and preparations for the Review Conference, as follows:

(i) Some States parties also continued to call for greater progress by the nuclear-weapon States, especially in achieving deeper reductions in all types of nuclear weapons, greater transparency and agreement on a standard reporting form, reductions in the operational status of nuclear weapons and in the role of nuclear weapons in security doctrines, and for the removal of weapons deployed on the territory of third party countries;

(ii) Many States parties at the Preparatory Committee stressed the need for the negotiation of a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified time frame, including a nuclear weapons convention;

(iii) Nuclear-weapon States made reference to their responsibility to work towards nuclear disarmament and expressed their intention to continue to work together to meet, inter alia, their disarmament commitments under the Action Plan;

(iv) On the convening of a conference to establish a Middle East zone free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction, States parties expressed their deep disappointment and regret at the postponement of the 2012 Conference. They reaffirmed their support for the convening of the Conference in accordance with the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions adopted at the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference;

(v) Eighty States joined in issuing a statement expressing deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, referred to the unacceptable harm that would result from such a detonation and reaffirmed that nuclear weapons can never be used again, under any circumstances.

6. In addition to the above, further efforts are under way that could contribute towards the achievement of a world without nuclear weapons:

(a) An open-ended working group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations was established by the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session. The open-ended working group met in Geneva from 14 to 24 May 2013 and on 27 June 2013. The proposals that were submitted by some Member States to the Chair at both sessions will serve as a basis for the consultations in the group during its third meeting, to be held from 19 to 30 August 2013. In addition, some States submitted working papers and informal papers for further consideration by the group, including on its possible areas of focus. The working group is to submit a report on its work, reflecting discussions held and all proposals made, to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;

(b) The General Assembly, also at its sixty-seventh session, decided to convene a high-level meeting on nuclear disarmament on 26 September 2013. The meeting will be the first-ever high-level meeting of the Assembly on this important issue;

(c) In addition, the General Assembly decided to establish a group of governmental experts to convene in 2014 and 2015 to develop recommendations on possible aspects that could contribute to, but not negotiate, a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;

(d) From 4 to 5 March 2013, Norway hosted an international conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, which was held in Oslo, with the participation of 127 Governments, United Nations agencies, international organizations and civil society. The conference marked the first time that Governments had come together specifically to address the humanitarian impact caused by any use of nuclear weapons.

7. On 19 June 2013, United States President Barack Obama delivered a speech in Berlin, in which he reiterated the commitment of the United States to pursuing the security of a world without nuclear weapons. President Obama announced that his administration had completed a comprehensive review of the United States nuclear posture and intended to seek negotiations with the Russian Federation on two new disarmament initiatives, namely: to reduce deployed strategic nuclear weapons by

up to one third from the 1,550 level established under the New START Treaty; and to work with NATO allies to seek reductions in both United States and Russian non-strategic nuclear weapons in Europe.

8. Nonetheless, setbacks and growing impatience with the slow pace of progress in other areas of key importance have remained. Some examples are:

(a) The 2013 Conference on Disarmament's continued inability to start substantive work on the basis of an agreed programme of work increased the level of frustration and concerns regarding the effectiveness of that multilateral disarmament machinery;

(b) On 12 February 2013, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea conducted its third nuclear test, despite the strong and unequivocal call from the international community to refrain from any further provocative measures, and contrary to the relevant decisions of the Security Council;

(c) Efforts to convene the Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, mandated by States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, to be convened in 2012, have not yet been successful. The Secretary-General issued a statement on 24 November 2012, in which he took note of the statements issued by the co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and fully supported the continued efforts of the facilitator, Jaako Lajaava (Finland), including his proposal to conduct multilateral consultations in the shortest possible time, so as to allow the Conference to be convened at the earliest opportunity in 2013;

(d) The number of nuclear weapons in national arsenals remains high, with thousands of warheads maintained on high-alert status as part of continued adherence, on the part of some States, to a doctrine of nuclear deterrence. In addition, nuclear-weapon States have continued to modernize their nuclear arsenals and nuclear-weapon delivery systems.

9. Emerging issues, such as the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, have continued to gain greater attention, as have new efforts to reinvigorate the debate and discussion over the steps towards nuclear disarmament. However, serious setbacks and concerns at the slow pace of progress undercut the momentum that had been generated by the successful 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference and the 2012 session of the Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee.

10. The Secretary-General and the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs continue their efforts to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

III. Information received from Governments

11. By a note verbale dated 25 February 2013, all Member States were invited to inform the Secretary-General by 31 May 2013 of the efforts and measures that they had taken with regard to the implementation of resolution 67/33, concerning the follow-up advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons*. To date, Austria, Cuba, Iraq, Mexico and Qatar have sent replies, the texts of which are reproduced below. Additional replies received from Member States will be issued as addenda to the present report.

Austria

[Original: English]
[23 May 2013]

Against the background of consistent Austrian support to nuclear disarmament efforts and Austria's constitutional law (149/1999) on "A nuclear-free Austria", Austria strongly supports the conclusion and recommendations for follow-on actions agreed upon at the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference and is also particularly engaged in overcoming the current dysfunction of the United Nations disarmament machinery, in particular of the Conference on Disarmament and the resulting lack of substantive multilateral disarmament negotiations.

In 2012, Austria, together with Norway and Mexico, presented a draft resolution to the General Assembly with the aim of carrying forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations. The negotiations in the First Committee resulted in a text which was adopted by vote as General Assembly resolution 67/56 and which led to the establishment of open-ended working group on nuclear disarmament. It started its substantive, interactive discussions on nuclear disarmament in Geneva on 14 May 2013. All United Nations Member States and relevant civil society organizations were invited and engaged in frank and open deliberations.

Furthermore, Austria would like to refer to the importance of recognizing within the Non-Proliferation Treaty and its review cycle the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and the need to comply at all times with international law and international humanitarian law. In this context, Austria participated in the drafting of a joint statement (attached) on the humanitarian dimension of nuclear disarmament that was presented by South Africa on behalf of a group of 80 States at the Second Preparatory Committee Meeting of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in Geneva on 24 April 2013. Support for the humanitarian statement has increased from 16 at the First Preparatory Committee Meeting of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 2012 to 80 at the Second Preparatory Committee Meeting of the Treaty in 2013. Austria is convinced of the need to fundamentally change the discourse on nuclear weapons and to foster the understanding that any use of nuclear weapons would be morally repugnant and devastating in its effects for the whole world and all of humankind. Consequently, it is difficult to envisage how any use of nuclear weapons could be compatible with international law, in particular with fundamental principles of international humanitarian law.

In November 2012, a national seminar entitled "Nuclear weapons — the sword of Damocles: the humanitarian dimension of nuclear disarmament" was held in Vienna. Organized jointly by the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Austrian Red Cross, the seminar discussed humanitarian aspects, as well as the international law and international humanitarian law dimensions of nuclear weapons.

The growing recognition of this humanitarian and legal dimension of nuclear weapons is also reflected in the overwhelming success of the international conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons organized in Oslo on 4 and 5 March 2013. Close to 130 States, as well as representatives of relevant international and civil society organizations underscored the fact that it would be impossible to adequately prepare for and respond to the humanitarian consequences

of the explosion of a nuclear weapon, including the long-term environmental, psychological and socioeconomic consequences that would be felt throughout the world. While it seems evident that the only way to deal with this threat is through its complete elimination, further awareness and understanding of this issue is urgently needed. The announcement by Mexico to host another such conference is a welcome step in that direction.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[20 May 2013]

The existence of nuclear weapons and of the dangers associated with them undoubtedly constitutes one of the main challenges to the survival of the human species.

There is growing international concern at the threat to humankind posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and the potential for the use or threat of use of such weapons. It is therefore vital to continue to stress, in all relevant international forums, that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of such weapons.

Notwithstanding the proclaimed end of the Cold War, humankind is still at serious risk of annihilation owing to the existence of over 19,000 nuclear weapons, over 2,000 of which are ready for immediate deployment.

The use of just a fraction of this arsenal would bring about a nuclear winter with catastrophic consequences for our planet.

Experience with the use of nuclear weapons and with the tests that have been conducted has amply demonstrated the tremendous and uncontrollable destructive capacity of these weapons. Since the effects of the detonation of nuclear weapons transcend national borders, the issue is of great concern to humanity as a whole.

The only effective way to ensure that humankind will never again suffer the terrible humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons is to totally eliminate and permanently ban them worldwide. Regrettably, there has been little progress towards this objective.

In view of their disastrous effects, the use of nuclear weapons would constitute a flagrant violation of international standards on the prevention of genocide and on environmental protection. The use of nuclear weapons cannot be justified by any security theory or doctrine.

It is therefore a matter of deep concern that the strategic defence doctrines of the nuclear-weapon States serve as a rationale for using these nuclear weapons.

The concept of "nuclear deterrence" should be abandoned once and for all as it encourages the permanent possession of nuclear weapons. This doctrine has been used to justify spending huge sums of money to update nuclear arsenals, funds that could be invested in solving the most pressing problems facing the world's population, such as, among others, hunger, poverty and disease.

In 1996, the International Court of Justice unanimously concluded that there was an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations

leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

Negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified time frame, including a nuclear weapons convention, are necessary and should commence without further delay. In that regard, an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament within the Conference on Disarmament should be established as soon as possible and as the highest priority.

Nuclear disarmament cannot remain a goal that is constantly postponed or set aside. The Non-Aligned Movement has submitted a proposal establishing a concrete timetable for the gradual reduction of nuclear weapons with a view to their total elimination and prohibition by 2025 at the latest, which warrants consideration by the international community.

In December 2012, on the basis of a Cuban initiative that was endorsed by the members of the Non-Aligned Movement, the United Nations General Assembly adopted an important resolution in which it decided to convene, for the first time in the history of the Organization, a high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, to be held in New York on 26 September 2013.

The support of the international community is needed in order to ensure that this meeting makes a real contribution to the necessary progress towards the prohibition and complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a view to nuclear disarmament.

Iraq

[Original: Arabic]
[15 April 2013]

The Government of Iraq attaches great importance to the issue of general disarmament. Iraq has therefore acceded to all the major disarmament instruments, and is fully committed to applying all their provisions and implementing all their requirements. Iraq became a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1969, and has applied the Model Additional Protocol of the International Atomic Energy Agency Comprehensive Safeguards System. In accordance with the due Constitutional procedures, Iraq is in the final stages of the process of depositing the instruments of accession to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

The Government of Iraq is committed to upholding disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and agreements, in the belief that universal accession to and compliance, without discrimination, with the international conventions on weapons of mass destruction and the complete eradication of those weapons will provide the international community with a real guarantee that such weapons will not be used or threats made as to their use, and will strengthen international peace and security.

Nuclear disarmament is one of the principles and priorities of Iraqi foreign policy, in line with the importance accorded thereto in the 1996 advisory opinion of

the International Court of Justice and in the final document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, which was held in 1978. Given the destructive nature of nuclear weapons, they must be totally and irrevocably eliminated if the human race is to survive. Their continued existence constitutes a threat to international peace and security.

Iraq calls for negotiations to begin on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specific time framework.

The Government of Iraq affirms that the sole means of ensuring the non-use and non-threat of use of nuclear weapons is to gradually eliminate all such weapons, which will, moreover, build trust between States parties to the Treaty. Agreement must be reached on the need to conclude a binding international legal instrument that would provide non-nuclear-weapon States with assurances that nuclear-weapon States will not use or threaten to use such weapons against them, as well as the means by which progress can be made towards that aim. This will provide States non-parties with an incentive to become parties thereto.

The Government of Iraq stresses the need to comply with the 8 July 1996 International Court of Justice advisory opinion on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons, which affirmed that the threat or use of nuclear weapons would be contrary to the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict, and that States have an obligation to bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

The Government of Iraq affirms that nuclear terrorism represents one of the most serious threats to international security, and that strict nuclear security arrangements are essential in order to prevent nuclear materials falling into the hands of terrorists and other unlicensed parties. The demand to rid the world of nuclear weapons is therefore perfectly legitimate and will ensure that the world avoids the danger of nuclear terrorism.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[31 May 2013]

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of resolution 67/33, entitled "Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons", adopted by the General Assembly on 3 December 2012, the Government of Mexico hereby presents the initiatives and measures taken to implement the said resolution, with a view to achieving nuclear disarmament.

Taking into consideration the report it presented on the same topic at the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, pursuant to resolution 65/76, Mexico wishes to point out that it has established a legal and normative framework to regulate nuclear activities in the territory under its jurisdiction.

Specifically, there are constitutional provisions and regulatory enactments limiting the use of nuclear energy for exclusively peaceful purposes,[1] as well as

[1] See *Political Constitution of the United Mexican States (CPEUM)*, article 27; *Act relating article 27 of the Constitution*, article 2.

constitutional norms requiring that any foreign policy measures taken respect basic principles, such as the pursuit of international peace and security, and the prohibition of the threat or use of force in international relations.[2] Mexico has also made an internationally binding commitment to the peaceful use of nuclear material, non-proliferation and a comprehensive ban on nuclear tests by acceding to and ratifying the main regional and international treaties on the topic.[3]

Each year, Mexico has been one of the sponsors of the resolution entitled "Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons", which Malaysia has been submitting every year since 1996.

In addition, pursuant to the said advisory opinion and on the basis of various international treaties, General Assembly resolutions and international custom, at the June 2009 Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Mexico submitted a proposal to amend the said instrument in order to characterize the use of nuclear weapons during an international armed conflict as a war crime.

Mexico has also maintained an active, sustained and committed involvement in promoting international disarmament and security, insisting on the clear need to achieve the prohibition and total elimination of weapons of mass destruction, primarily nuclear weapons, given that the international community has already abolished biological and chemical weapons.

The pursuit of the total elimination of nuclear weapons has been a fundamental element of Mexico's position in various multilateral forums, in accordance with its foreign policy principles and those of the Charter of the United Nations. Mexico therefore considers that the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice represents an important benchmark in that effort.

Mexico is firmly committed to nuclear disarmament and has led a number actions to achieve that goal, including:

Submission, together with Austria and Norway, in the First Committee during the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, of a draft resolution entitled "Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations", adopted as resolution 67/56

Since 1996, in order to achieve the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons, Mexico has sought to re-launch international negotiations on nuclear disarmament based on the principles of verification, irreversibility and transparency, since these negotiations have not taken place, as part of the United Nations disarmament machinery.

To that end, at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, together with Austria and Norway, Mexico submitted a draft resolution to take forward those

[2] See *CPEUM*, article 88, section X.

[3] The Mexican State has acceded to and ratified the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Since 1999, it has also acceded to and ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and reaffirmed its willingness to comply with the provisions of that international instrument, even though it has not yet entered into force.

negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world free of nuclear weapons. That draft resolution, which became resolution 67/56, entitled "Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations", was adopted by 147 votes in favour and 4 against, with 31 abstentions, and was sponsored by 20 delegations.

By that resolution, the General Assembly established an open-ended working group that was to convene in Geneva for fifteen days during the recess periods of the Conference on Disarmament with the contribution of international organizations and civil society, with a mandate to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for submission to the Assembly.

Convening in Mexico of the second international conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, February 2014

Mexico, together with Norway, civil society organizations and the International Committee of the Red Cross, has promoted the need to give a new impetus to the debate on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation from a humanitarian perspective which focuses more on the prevention and protection of human safety, with a view to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons.

In that regard, Mexico, in conjunction with other States, has delivered joint statements on the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, the violation of all norms of international humanitarian law and the urgent need to achieve the prohibition and total elimination of nuclear weapons.

These statements were delivered at the first and second sessions of the Preparatory Committee (Prep Com) for the Ninth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), held in Vienna in 2012 and Geneva in 2013, as well as in the First Committee during the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, held in New York in 2012, each time with the endorsement of a variety of countries.

Mexico also participated in the international Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, held in Oslo on 4 and 5 March 2013.

Considering the need to deepen discussions and to continue delivering solid and strong arguments on the devastating humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, Mexico has announced that it will convene a follow-up conference in February 2014.

Monitoring, observance and implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is the cornerstone of the global disarmament and non-proliferation regime, being the only treaty in force that addresses those topics. In that connection, Mexico advocates the universality of the NPT and promotes a balanced implementation of its three pillars — nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Mexico calls for implementation of article VI of the NPT, with a view to achieving the total elimination of nuclear weapons and points out that it is important for negotiations on nuclear disarmament to be conducted based on the principles of transparency, verification and irreversibility.

In that regard, Mexico has participated actively in the Review Conferences of the Treaty and the preparatory meetings for those Conferences, both individually and within groups such as the New Agenda Coalition (NAC) and the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI).

At the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the Ninth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in Geneva from 22 April to 3 May 2013, Mexico, as a member of NPDI, presented seven working papers on the following topics: reducing the role of nuclear weapons; non-strategic nuclear weapons; export controls; the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty; education for disarmament; broad application of safeguards in non-nuclear-weapon States; and nuclear-weapon-free zones and negative security assurances.

NPDI also delivered a joint statement during both the general debate and the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation segments on the following topics: reducing the role of nuclear weapons; education for disarmament and non-proliferation; non-strategic nuclear weapons; and nuclear-weapon-free zones and negative security assurances.

As a member of NAC, Mexico also presented two working papers on transparency and nuclear disarmament, respectively, and delivered statements during both the general debate and the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation segments.

Nuclear-weapon-free zones

As a leading promoter of the first nuclear-weapon-free zone in a densely populated territory, Mexico supports the establishment of new nuclear-weapon-free zones as an effective means of promoting nuclear disarmament. In that connection, the establishment of such zones in any region of the world must be based on the agreement and free choice of the parties involved. In that regard, Mexico has always respected the sovereign decisions of countries that wish to conclude treaties for the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, and will continue to do so.

Mexico also participates in the work of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), the first specialized agency created to ensure implementation of the provisions of a treaty establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone. It also helps to keep the region free of nuclear weapons and contributes permanently to efforts to achieve general and comprehensive nuclear disarmament.

Entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Mexico has been actively promoting the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) since its adoption in 1996. The CTBT represents one of the basic pillars of the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, together with the NPT and treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones.

From September 2011 to September 2013, together with Sweden, Mexico served as one of the coordinators of the article XIV process of the CTBT, which aims to promote the entry into force of the treaty.

Qatar

[Original: Arabic]
[22 April 2013]

1. Qatar believes that the threat or use of nuclear weapons is contrary to current international law on armed conflicts, and especially the principles and rules of international humanitarian law.

2. Qatar is firmly convinced that only the total elimination of nuclear weapons can provide a guarantee against the use of such weapons. It therefore stresses the importance of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, which unanimously found that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

3. Qatar believes that action must be taken to accelerate implementation of the 13 practical steps contained in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, including the establishment in the Conference on Disarmament of a committee with a mandate to deal with nuclear disarmament with a view to identifying the measures required to eliminate nuclear weapons completely.

4. Qatar is a non-nuclear-weapon State that neither possesses such weapons nor has the means to deliver them. It has no ambition and does not intend to acquire nuclear weapons or develop nuclear-weapons-related programmes, nor does it provide any scientific, technical or material assistance to any party endeavouring to acquire or develop such weapons. Qatar also does not allow any nuclear-weapon-related activities to take place in its territory.

5. Owing to its firm conviction that nuclear energy should be used for peaceful purposes and not employed for military purposes, Qatar acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 3 April 1989 and signed a comprehensive safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency on 19 January 2009. It also signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty on 23 September 1996 and then ratified it on 3 March 1997. Qatar is currently an observer State of the Conference on Disarmament and has applied for membership of that body.